

# The California Legacy Project - Future Direction

*Decision Support Tools  
and Smart Funding*

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# Why the Legacy Project?

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## Concerns about:

- Loss and fragmentation of natural resources, farms, timber and range lands
- Need for a more integrated strategy to make best use of funds for sustaining natural, working, and recreational lands



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# Scope of Resources Addressed

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- Aquatic Biological diversity and Watersheds
- Working Lands (Farms, Range, and Forests)
- Terrestrial Biological diversity
- Rural Recreation
- Urban Open Space



# Project Goals

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1. Gain a better understanding of regional natural resource values and needs
2. Improve data and their accessibility
3. Provide a strategic, statewide context for investments
4. Promote protection and sustainable management of farms, forests and range lands
5. Increase cost sharing and collaboration



# Working with "Conservation Partners" State, Regional and Local Interests

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## Spotlight on Conservation Regional Workshops

- Increase awareness of existing efforts
- Gain a greater understanding about unique conservation values and economic needs around the State
- Identify important future State investments and partnership opportunities



# Improving the Quality of Information

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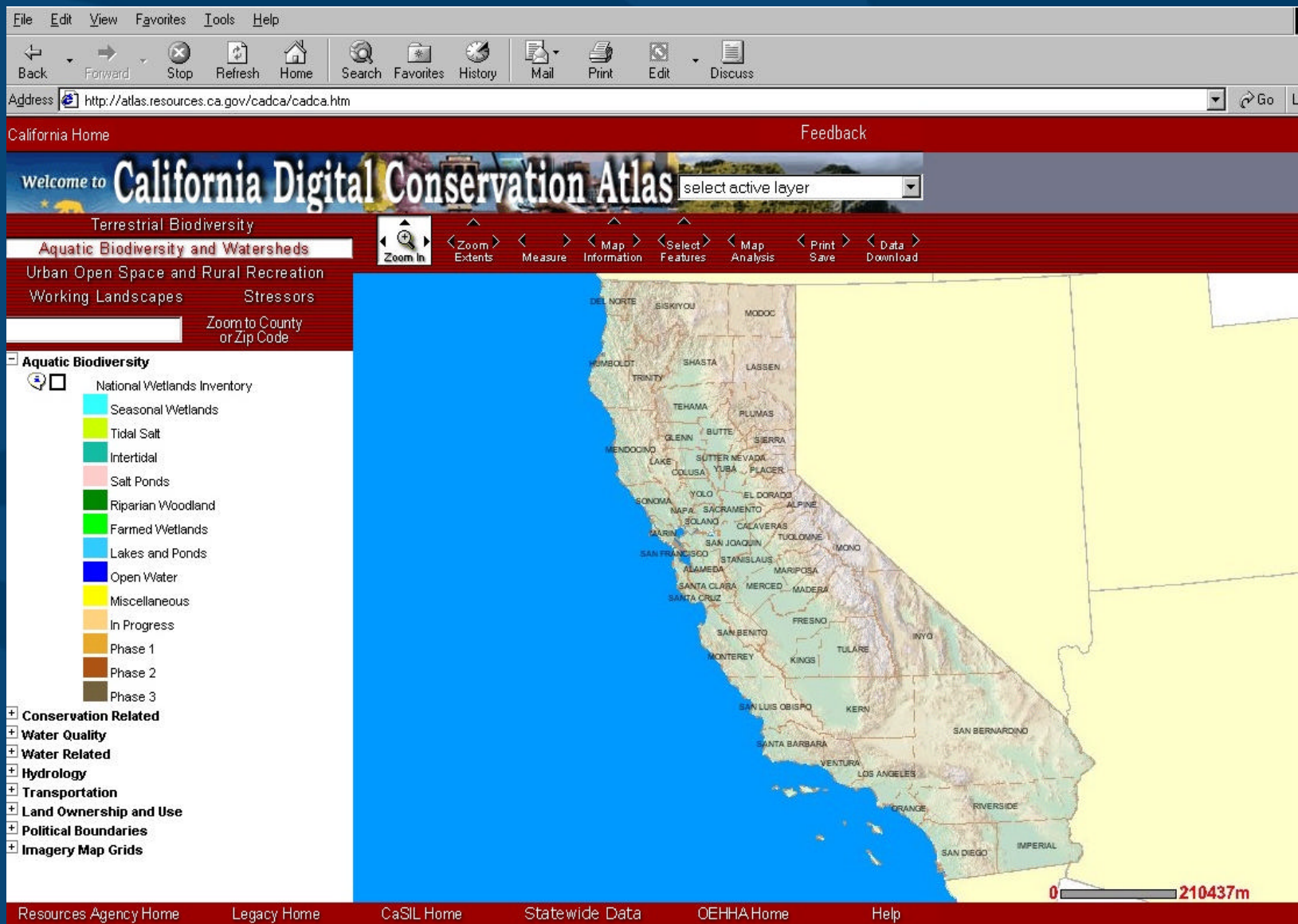
## A sampling of Legacy Project data efforts:

- Current and emerging conservation plans
- Public land ownership data
- Nonprofit land ownership data
- Statewide wetlands data
- Urban growth projections
- Statewide vegetation & land cover data, including farmlands
- Fisheries data





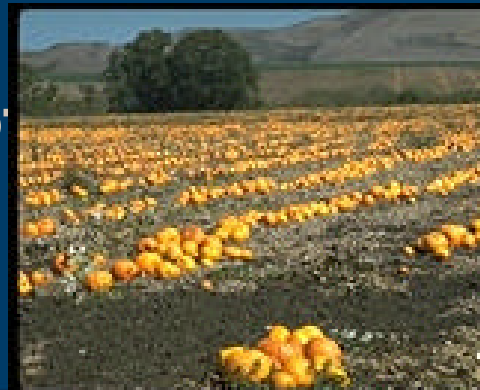
# Improving the Accessibility of Data



# Promoting the Protection and Sustainable Management of Working Lands

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- Facilitate information sharing about existing programs to help productivity and sustainability
- Improving California's ability to access federal funds
- Improving State's capacity to provide technical assistance to landowners and USDA
- Improving program delivery to landowners
- Enhancing capacity of local government to evaluate land use scenarios
- Increasing cost-sharing and leveraging of





# Increasing Cost-Sharing and Collaboration

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- **Legacy is helping to convene public and private organizations to:**
  - Identify common goals and needs
  - Facilitate cost-sharing opportunities
  - Integrate information and resolve conflicts
- **The outcomes are:**
  - Data and analysis created in a more efficient and comprehensive manner,
  - that are useful for many different decisions,
  - Better delivery of state programs

# **The Connection between Legacy and Regulatory Programs:**

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- Legacy can share information on watershed stewardship groups and existing capacity to meet regulatory conditions – effectively combining regulatory with funding incentives
- Legacy is building relationships with landowners and RCDs
- Improved ability to share data on effective management practices and multi-purpose conservation actions (e.g. riparian habitat restoration and contaminant runoff mitigation)
- Improved delivery of private land stewardship programs that can help achieve regulatory goals of improved water quality

# Next Steps:

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## Conservation partners need more specific tools:

- Strategic locator tool – what areas have the highest value resources for your specific criteria?
- Legacy Conservation Checklist – How does this project area compare to other proposed projects? How important is this project in a statewide, regional, and watershed context and what benefits is it expected to contribute?
- What performance measures should be used?

# Strategic Locator

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- **How do we identify the best areas in which to invest?**
  - Areas with high value resources
  - Areas with multiple benefits
    - Some criteria may be weighted higher than others

# Legacy “Checklist”

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- **How do we assess project proposals?**
  - Achieve objective consistency
  - Understand marginal value gained

# Results – Values in Project Area

Below is a Legacy summary of the Trust for Public Land Proposals:  
 Santa Ana Property, Fine Gold Creek, Oxbow Point, and Santa Ana Watershed.

## Thematic Biodiversity:

	Travis	Fine Gold	Oxbow	Santa Ana River
In/next to National Wetlands Inventory	Not yet mapped	Not yet mapped	Yes	Not yet mapped
Impaired Water Bodies w/ 1 Mile	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wild and Scenic Rivers w/ 1 mile	No	No	No	No
In a Flood Plain	No	Next to Zone A	In Zone A	No
Dams w/ 1 mile	1	0	1	0
Near Streams	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



# Results – Regional Context of Project

## Aquatic Biodiversity:

	Travis Property	Fine Gold Creek	Oxbow Point	Santa Ana River Watershed
Information				
Wetlands Importance	Not yet mapped	Not yet mapped	22% wetlands in bioregion in conservation	Not yet mapped
River/Stream Miles in Bioregion	10,000	10,000	9,000	14,000
% Regional Riparian in Conservation Areas	15%	2%	3%	9%

# Summary of Legacy Project Results

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## Improving Conservation Investment Decisions:

Maps of  
values/  
objectives

- Unique Regional perspectives
- Departmental criteria mapped

Better data  
and access  
to data

- Key data gaps filled
- Understanding of current investments
- Digital Conservation Atlas

Increasing  
capacity and  
uniformity in  
strategic analyses

- Strategic Locator Tool
- Legacy Checklist Tool